

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: March 21, 2007

CALLED TO ORDER: 5:42 p.m.

ADJOURNED: 6:42 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

ATTENDING MEMBERS

Angela Mansfield, Chair

Patrice Abdullah

Susie Day

Joanne Sanders

ABSENT

Paul Bateman

Ginny Cain

Ryan Vaughn

AGENDA

Presentation on Community Affairs – Ellen Quigley, Deputy Mayor of Community Affairs

Presentation on Purdue Cooperative Extension Services – Ron Hoyt, Director

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The Community Affairs Committee of the City-County Council met on Wednesday, March 21, 2007. Chair Angela Mansfield called the meeting to order at 5:42 p.m. with the following members present: Patrice Abdullah, Joanne Sanders, and Susie Day. Absent were Paul Bateman, Ginny Cain, and Ryan Vaughn.

Presentation on Community Affairs – Ellen Quigley, Deputy Mayor of Community Affairs

Ellen Quigley, Deputy Mayor of Community Affairs stated that she handles a range of issues that span a broad spectrum. She stated that some of the issues relate to things like human services, health, homelessness and non-chartered education related activities. Chair Mansfield asked if there are any services that cover working with juveniles. Ms. Quigley answered that she does not directly work with juveniles, as the focus has been put more on the criminal justice fixes. Ms. Quigley talked about the following:

- Homelessness- acts as a liaison to providers of services to the homeless.

She stated that the City is working to find more support of permanent housing for homeless individuals. Ms. Quigley stated that the City has completed the second annual Indy Homeless Connect which included about 70 providers from the City. The Providers are people, who work in the field of housing, employment, benefits department (such as food stamps and birth certificates). She stated that about 750 people were helped with Indy Homeless Connect. Councillor Sanders asked if Ms. Quigley has an estimate of the homeless population. Ms. Quigley stated that she does not have the answer right now but will have that information in a couple of weeks.

Councillor Day asked about the process of getting a count on the number of homeless persons there are. Ms. Quigley stated that there are outreach workers that go out in the evening to shelters, transitional housing and on the streets where they walk and count them.

Councillor Abdullah asked if there is a hotline or contact person to call if a person is out on the street and needs shelter. Ms. Quigley answered that 211 is the best way for people to connect to services on an emergency basis. She said that when dialing 211, the individual is connected with Connect to Help, and they will help then identify what services are needed.

Ms. Quigley went on to say that another area she is involved with is early childhood. She said that there is a program called Success by Six which is a partnership between the City of Indianapolis, United Way of Central Indiana, and Annie E. Casey Foundation. She said that the focus is to help prepare children to learn once they reach kindergarten. Ms. Quigley stated that the program called Imagination Library allows any family with children from ages 0-5 a free book once a month. She said that in the Central Indiana area, there have been over 15,000 families signed up in one year. Chair Mansfield asked how parents can get that information. Ms. Quigley stated that libraries, daycare providers, Head Start and school districts can provide information on the program.

Ms. Quigley said that something else she is working on is crime prevention. She said that the crime prevention task force makes recommendations for the community to help prevent crime, both short and long-term. She said that she has been working with City staff to review those recommendations and discuss how to coordinate the implementation of those recommendations. She said that she is happy to report that Katie Britt has come aboard as their crime prevention point person.

Chair Mansfield stated that in the Mayor's State of the City address there was a section to fund up to \$5 million for youth programs. She asked if there has been any progress coming up with the funding and what type of programs there will be. Ms. Quigley stated that the funding will come if there is success with the legislature. She said that if it is successful, then the City will know whether to go forward and will also involve the council to determine appropriate distribution of the funds.

{Clerk's Note: Councillor Day left at 5:55 pm}

Councillor Abdullah asked how the partnerships will work with the community that is already asking for funds to start their own programs. Ms. Quigley stated that the City is going to have to be creative and figure out how to reach different areas. She said that if it is done as a community, there will be a better chance of success.

Ms. Quigley went on to explain that she works on health issues. She stated that she works very closely with Wishard, Health and Hospital and the Marion County Health Department on a variety of issues such as, obesity, pandemic flu planning, domestic violence and other health issues as they arise. Ms. Quigley stated that in August 2005, there was a community roundtable to identify some priorities that the community should look at with domestic violence. The providers are looking at strategies to help implement some changes. She said that a lot of providers and others have stated there is not a lot of connectivity between the shelters and the domestic violence providers in the larger communities. She said sometimes schools struggle with what to do with children who are suddenly taken out of school and put into a shelter and then are not able to find them.

Councillor Abdullah stated that he is concerned that a lot of children and families are having a hard time coming back together once they are in the system. He asked if there will be any support from the Mayor on some of these initiatives. Ms. Quigley stated that there has not been any in-depth conversation regarding the Office of Family and Children (OFC). She stated that there has been conversation about what types of programs will help families before they enter in the system, how to get out once they have been in, and how to stay out.

Chair Mansfield stated that there are concerns voiced in the community that Indiana Senate Resolution 7 will affect domestic violence. She asked if the Mayor's office has done anything with regards to this particular piece of legislation. Ms. Quigley stated that at this time she is not aware of any specific action being taken on behalf of the Mayor. She said that she will find out some information and follow up with Chair Mansfield.

Ms. Quigley stated that in working with Indianapolis Public Schools (IPS), she is the liaison to help them with a variety of issues. Ms. Quigley stated that on issues of mental health, the City has partnered with Eli Lilly to convene a group called the Mental Health Network on Employment. She said this group includes all CEOs of the mental health centers, persons from the State, consumers of mental health services, and others who might provide different types of services to look at ways to increase successful employment outcome for individuals with serious mental illness. She said that it is a struggle for the mentally ill. She stated that so many individuals that have mental health issues really do want to be employed and engaged and feel like they are part of the community. Chair Mansfield stated that she is happy to hear that in regards to homeless individuals.

Presentation on Purdue Cooperative Extension Services – Ron Hoyt, Director

Ron Hoyt, Director, Purdue Cooperative Extension Services presented a Powerpoint presentation in detail. Some of the program highlights are as follows.

Mr. Hoyt stated that Purdue is funded differently from most other city or county agencies. He said that Purdue Extension Services is a nationwide system of educational outreach and is run through the Landrent Colleges. Mr. Hoyt stated that there are three distinct funding partners. At the federal level, there is money that flows through the state from USDA. Secondly there is state funding through the legislature and lastly through a local partner which is the Indianapolis/Marion County City-County Council budget that is presented each year.

Mr. Hoyt stated that on the federal and state side it is difficult to separate the difference, because the funds flow through Purdue and then are mingled with the state resources. Mr. Hoyt stated that in state law for Extensions, it specifies what parts the County government will provide. He explained the other pieces of the operation below:

- 12 master degree educators on staff
- Fringe benefits are paid out of the Purdue federal portion
- Expanded Foods and Nutrition Program
- Family Nutrition Program for Seniors

Mr. Hoyt went on to explain what funds the Council budget each year includes:

- Support staff salary and fringes for County employees
- Roughly 40% of the Educator's salary. Other 60% comes from Purdue
- County provides office space, equipment supplies, mileage expense

Mr. Hoyt stated that a couple of years ago, Purdue was not listed as a County department. Because of the different sources of revenue, Purdue Extension is connected with the Indygov website as a City-County department. He said that will allow other departments to understand Purdue's role. He stated that Purdue is working with Central Human Resources (HR) to have researchers come in and work with individuals to understand the financial stress among employees in City-County government. Councillor Sanders asked when the deadline for completion is and if the committee will be provided a copy. Mr. Hoyt Community Affairs Committee

stated that the research is in the beginning stages and copies will be provided to the committee members.

Mr. Hoyt stated that there are five key areas that Purdue works with.

- Community volunteerism:
 - Master Gardner Program
 - Partners in Environment
 - Junior Master Gardeners
 - Volunteer Money Mentors
 - Capital City Garden

Chair Mansfield asked if someone from the educational programs goes out to the different neighborhood associations. Mr. Hoyt answered in the affirmative. Chair Mansfield asked how someone in the community can contact a representative to come and speak. Mr. Hoyt stated that the individual will contact Purdue Extension directly and the office will put them in contact with the Master Gardner coordinator.

Councilor Abdullah suggested some type of public relations (PR) piece to the general public regarding cross contamination of pesticides and insecticides, and thought that would be a good way to stress education on cross contamination. Mr. Hoyt stated that Purdue works with Indianapolis Clean Stream Team to double up on some of those educational issues and how to get that information out.

Mr. Hoyt stated that Volunteer Money Mentors program has volunteers come to Purdue interested in sharing and being trained on issues related to financial management. He said the volunteers become mentors to other families who are struggling to attain financial security.

Chair Mansfield asked how Purdue goes about attracting children to the programs and if some children do not have the financial resources to participate, if there is some type of scholarships or grants provided. Mr. Hoyt stated that all of the programs have procedures in place so that if there is a financial need identified, there are resources to offset the fees.

{Clerk's Note: Councillor Sanders left at 6:31 p.m.}

Mr. Hoyt went on to explain a variety of other programs that Purdue Extension offers.

- Family Resource Management Program
 - Families partner with Habitat for Humanity to learn how to track expenses, write financial goals, save for emergency, and understand current money management practices
- High School Financial Management Program
- Science Bound Program
 - Students earn college scholarships to Purdue University

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Mr. Hoyt stated that these programs will make a huge financial impact on the City. He said that to date, there are 29 new IPS students who will graduate in May have applied and been accepted to Purdue University for fall admission.

Mr. Hoyt showed a 10 minute slideshow set to music to show the many various partnerships Purdue engages in across Indianapolis. Chair Mansfield asked if the 10 minute slideshow enhances the information already given. Mr. Hoyt answered in the affirmative.

Chair Mansfield thanked Mr. Hoyt for his presentation.

With no further business pending, and upon motion duly made, the Community Affairs Committee of the City County Council was adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Mansfield, Chair
Community Affairs Committee

AM/law